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[GB/GB]; c/o Philips Intellectual Property & Standards,
Cross Oak Lane, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5HA (GB).

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(74) Agent: **WHITE, Andrew, G.;** Philips Intellectual Prop-
erty & Standards, Cross Oak Lane, Redhill, Surrey RH1
5HA (GB).

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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **KONIN-
KLJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.** [NL/NL];
Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

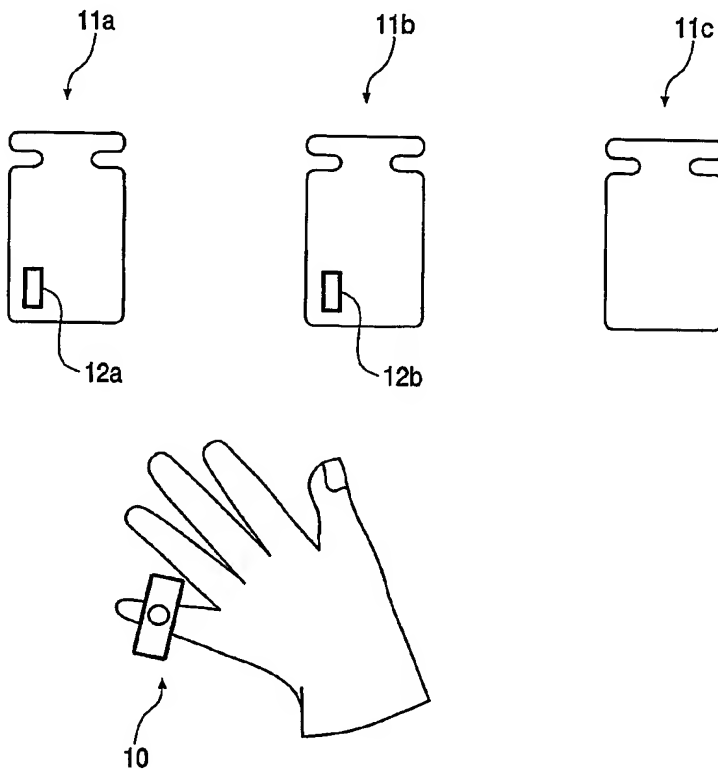
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(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (*for US only*): **COSIER, John, P.**

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(54) Title: OBJECT IDENTIFYING METHOD AND APPARATUS



(57). Abstract: A finger worn device (10) includes a tag reader for reading tags (12a, 12b) attached to similar shaped items (11a, 11b) respectively, an example of such items being jars containing different foodstuffs. When the device (10) is presented to one of the tags (12a, 12b) the device (10) reads data from the tag generates an output signal such as a tactile or audio output. The output signal is dependent on the tag being read. The user of the device has knowledge of a pre-defined association between a particular tag and a particular output signal that the device will produce on reading that tag. Furthermore the user has knowledge of which tag is provided on which item. Therefore, the user is able to establish which item is being presented to the device (10) by noting the output signal produced. The device is intended to assist a person who is blind or has poor eyesight with the task of identifying articles which are similarly shaped. The tags may be programmed with data describing the article, such as a text string, thereby permitting the data to be processed by a text-to-speech converter on the device (10) to produce synthesised speech describing the article.